Bullet proof steel supplied by SAIL

†*295. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the bullet proof steel supplied by SAIL has not proved fully well on examination;

(b) if so, when this examination was got conducted and the reasons for its failure; and

(c) whether Research Department of Ministry of Defence had a say in the manufacturing of the said steel, if so, the reasons for which the Research Department failed in removing this fault?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. Some of the samples of bullet proof (BP) steel supplied by SAIL have failed in ballistic tests.

(b) The ballistic test firing were conducted on 08 May 1999; 05 November 1999 and on 18 February 2000 at BSF Firing Range, Bhondsi, Haryana. Some samples of BP steel plate failed to withstand ballistic firing test due to manufacturing defects such as thickness variation, improper hardness and heavy lamination.

(c) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) had developed the bullet proof steel and transferred the technology to SAIL. SAIL has taken appropriate measures to resolve the quality control problems arising out in the production.

Security personnel killed by Landmine Blast

†*296. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:
SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of security and police personnel killed so far in landmines blast in all States including Jammu and Kashmir, Statewise;

(b) the steps taken by Government to curb completely such incidents which are taking place continuously; and

(c) alternatively what is Government's programme in this regard?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) No Statewise record regarding the number of security and police personnel killed in landmine blasts, is maintained by the Central Government. However, the Government of India and the concerned State Governments continuously review the situation arising out of militancy, terrorism, insurgency and extremist activities.

In order to tackle cross-border terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir, Government of India has implemented an action plan. For neutralising militancy/terrorism in the North-East various steps including deployment of CPMFs and Army, improved coordination and intelligence sharing between security forces, modernisation/upgradation of State Police Forces etc. have been undertaken.

For effectively countering Left Wing Extremism, the affected States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa were requested to prepare integrated action plans encompassing the development as well as security aspects of the problem for the affected areas. The States have also been advised to take vigorous follow-up action. The Government of India has also set up a coordination centre headed by the Union Home Secretary with Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of the States affected by Left Wing Extremism, as its members, to review steps taken to check the Left Wing Extremist activities, monitor the plan of action in respect of each state etc.

In addition, in order to minimise attacks due to landmine and/or IED blasts on security forces/police personnel/civilians, steps such as deployment of road opening parties, use of metal detectors, mine protected vehicles etc. are being taken.

Constitution of Jute Commission

*297. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1520 given in Rajya Sabha on 15th December 1999 and state:

(a) whether government had constituted a commission to go into the affair of jute industry; and

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the commission and its composition?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.